

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor* or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1, wherein the *creA* gene does not exert its inherent function.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 2, wherein the *creA* gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1 which is *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1 wherein the *areA* gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A method of producing proteolytic enzymes, comprising cultivating a koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the *creA* gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional in a suitable growth medium in the presence of a carbon source under conditions that the mold expresses proteolytic enzymes.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for hydrolyzing protein-containing materials comprising the ~~steps-step~~ of ~~using~~ providing to said protein-containing materials a Koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein ~~the~~ a creA gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, in combination with at least an enzyme or a microorganism providing a prolidase activity.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the creA gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the creA gene has been deleted.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the koji mold is *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the areA gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 including the step of isolating the enzymes in the form of a concentrate.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the creA gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the creA gene has been deleted.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7 wherein the koji mold is *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7 wherein ~~the~~an *areA* gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for preparing a protein hydrolysate comprising the steps of hydrolyzing a proteinaceous material with a koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein ~~the~~a *creA* gene has been mutated such that the gene produced thereof is essentially non-functional.